

This house is the bower of  
Research Ladies from far -

Your very kind & welcome letter  
was read by our Society with the liveliest  
interest - it has remained thus long un-  
answered only because we have been des-  
titute of a woman and I deny the  
earliest opportunity by the direction  
of the Socy - to convey to you their com-  
munity greeting - the assurance of sym-  
pathy & interest - be ye now to learn  
that your attention like our own  
has been providentially drawn to a  
~~consideration of the great truths to be  
attained by means of the great book of God -  
the Bible - the removal of which will leave us only  
ourselves as feeble creatures~~  
The sympathy of Christian friends  
is peculiarly valuable to us as we  
are endeavoring our labours in a field  
which promises indeed a glorious harvest  
but where the labours - seem few - &  
where we daily discern difficulties &  
obstacles - whose <sup>mysteries</sup> extent - we can but  
imperfectly appreciate -

~~The~~ <sup>have</sup> been educated to think - that  
war was frequently justifiable sometimes  
honorable & praiseworthy - & when we have

Jointly condemned the war whose  
object was - extention of territory or severity  
of injuries - we have never supposed that  
men were individually responsible for their  
sentiment & acts - in this matter -

We have been dazzled by the splendid array  
of martial array - ~~the~~ overpowered by  
the might of the mind which informed  
& conduced to masses of humanity which  
alas we fail to consider - and evidently -  
we have been hardly aware of the  
strength of the associations that  
have bound ~~the~~ system of man almost  
to our hearts - & which has shown  
us only the brilliant & imposing - the  
summing up nobler sublime, heroic -  
& concealed from our view - or only very  
imperfectly revealed the - the ~~mighty~~ <sup>mighty</sup>  
& agonizing ~~mortal~~ <sup>mortal</sup> meanness - I find  
the distinguishing & heart breaking consciousness  
of war - ~~had been long hidden~~ <sup>from me</sup> ~~by~~  
~~their known names~~ - ~~the~~ from me in fury  
we had supposed as bravely ~~or not~~  
quietly taught that with the devoted  
Roman that arms & courage were  
one nations better terrors - but knew  
~~not about~~ little of the nature  
of true courage <sup>spiritual</sup> Under these circum-  
stances we com mended our hearts often

truth - Revelation does not leave us to grope our way among the subtleties of human reason - the Gospel of Christ is sufficient for us & its words of power - ~~will~~ speak peace to our hearts - These Branches of God command us to love our enemies - to do good to those who despitefully use & persecute us - To Resist ~~not~~ evil - by this ~~is~~ distinctly is the only warfare pointed out in which we may lawfully engage - We must indeed overcome evil - but with the sword & armament we possess - over come evil with good - The Spirit of the Gospel of peace ~~has~~ we find at variance with our long cherished associations & opinions

a little reflection convinced us of the utter sinfulness - the abominable wickedness of war - we saw that it brought ~~it~~ in its train all other sins - that it ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> designed to selfishness to pride & vainglory that it was only evil & that continually - ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> gay & devilish work ~~the~~ <sup>for</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> never end as ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> own deformed & perverted aspect

The question then arose what is our duty in view of this great & world shadowing evil - We thought that it distinctly was to promote ~~out~~ <sup>our</sup> own virtue - believing that we have no right to withhold from others any good we may ~~know~~ <sup>to do them</sup> <sup>in</sup> <sup>their</sup> <sup>beliefs</sup> <sup>attained</sup> to do this more of the harm we ~~want~~ to inflict

we had no right to remain meeting here  
our exertions must be small helping like  
our ability & we resolved that of us of whom  
he records that in this most Christian cause  
we had done what we could -

Our knowledge of the best means of op-  
erating upon the minds of others is small  
~~many of us~~ ~~for~~ ~~they were~~ ~~spared~~  
in the perfection of the ~~Blessed~~ principles  
with which we have begun to argue and  
contend - but we will go forward in  
faith as far as our path is made clear  
to us trusting that the wish that over-  
hanging the way may vanish as we approach  
& knowing confidence in God's promise  
that if all his do his will he shall  
know of ~~the~~ ~~his~~ doctrine -

Be believe this subject especially  
suitable for ladies because  
they foster - the upholders -  
Fervor thus eduates the  
children & we have done  
this & so - & we are your  
very humble servants -

Ms. A. 9. 2. 6. 64

W. T. C.  
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